Special Status to Backward States

2189. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state'

(a) whether Government of India has so far accorded special status to some of the backward States for grant of loan and aid under Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme;

(b) if so, what is the criteria of categorization the States under APDRP, decided till date;

(c) whether Government of India propose to accord special status to the State of Rajasthan in consideration of its being the Border States and being a famine ridden backward State to bring it at par with other backward States; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Under APDRP scheme, funds are provided through a combination of grant and loan to the Special Category States (all North-Eastern States, Sikkim, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and J&K) as additional Central Plan Assistance to finance 100% of the project cost in the ratio of 90% grant and 10% soft loan. In respect of other States (Non-Special Category), APDRP will finance 25% of the project cost as grant and balance 75% will have to arrange from PFC/REC or other financial institutions as counter-part funds.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal before the Government for including Rajasthan in the list of Special Category States. Most States that have been granted Special Category Status during the last two decades have been created out of small Union Territories or from districts of some other States necessitating creation of overheads and administrative infrastructure that was out of proportion to their resource base.

Centrally sponsored schemes In Uttaranchal

2190. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Centrally sponsored schemes, which are being implmented in Uttaranchal till date, indicating the names of such schemes, date from which being implemented and their physical progress since the start of the schemes, year-wise, the financial progress and the present status;